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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049797

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 CU-04 USIA-12 NSC-10 IO-12

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /088 R

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R 170113 Z MAR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049797

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GE GW WB
SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WYF)
REFS: A) BERLIN 396; B) BONN 3655; C) STATE 36396;
D) STATE 16267

1. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN BERLIN 396 IN ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH POSITION EMERGING IN EUR AND WORKING GROUP FORMED BY INTERAGENCY YOUTH COMMITTEE FOR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON WYF. IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS PROPAGANDISTIC AND RIGGED NATURE OF WYF GATHERINGS, USG WISHES TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT TEND TO UPGRADE EAST BERLIN WYF BY, FOR EXAMPLE, LENDING CREDENCE TO NOTION THAT NATIONAL DELE-GATIONS ARE REPRESENTATIVE. USG- SUPPORTED PARTICIPATION OR SPONSORSHIP FOR ANY US YOUTH GROUPS ATTENDING ARE THEREFORE PRECLUDED.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

2. DEPARTMENT WILL DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE BY US YOUTH COUNCIL (USYC) AND AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL) OR BY ANY OF THEIR LEADERS AS INDIVIDUALS; BUT, BEYOND BRIEFING INQUIRING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ON NATURE OF WYF AND ON LIKELY EXPLOITATION OF THEIR PRESENCE IN EAST BERLIN, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN ANY ANTI- FESTIVAL BROADSIDE. YOUNG WORKERS LIBERATION LEAGUE (YWLL), AMERICAN AFFILIATE OF WFDY, PLANS TO SEND 400-MEMBER DELEGATION TO WYF. THERE IS ALSO REASON TO ASSUME,

ON BASIS OF EARLIER WYF MEETINGS, THAT OTHER AMERICAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WILL PARTICIPATE. PRIOR TO WYF OPENING USG CONTEMPLATES DISCREET, FACTUAL PRESS RELEASE ON SIZE, COMPOSITION, AND POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF YWLL AND DISCLAIMER THAT IT NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF POLITICALLY- ACTIVE AMERICAN YOUTH.

3. WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT DESIRABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROBABLY LARGE SPILLOVER INTO WEST BERLIN OF THIRD WORLD AND WEST EUROPEAN YOUTH BY SUPPLEMENTING AMERIKA HAUS AND OTHER AMERICAN CULTURAL PROGRAMS IN WEST BERLIN WITH INTERESTING, NONPOLEMICAL ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD OF WYF, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. DETAILS BEING DEVELOPED IN INTERAGENCY YOUTH COMMITTEE WILL BE FURNISHED ADDRESSEES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR DISCUSSION, AS NECESSARY, WITH APPROPRIATE FRG, BERLIN SENAT, AND BRITISH AND FRENCH OFFICIALS.

4. RE BONN 3655 YOU MAY INFORM LINCKELMANN AND WEBER, BUT ONLY IF THEY RAISE SUBJECT AGAIN, THAT AS THERE WILL BE NO USG- SUPPORTED PARTICIPATION AT WYF, SUGGESTION THE OFFER OF OUR POSSIBLY SENDING A ROCK OR JAZZ GROUP TO EAST BERLIN WYF IS NOT FEASIBLE.

5. RE SPECIFICS OF BERLIN 396, SUGGEST WEBER BE INFORMED OF OUR SENSE OF DIFFICULTY IN TRANSFORMING SO MASSIVE AND STAGED AN EVENT INTO FAIR AND OPEN FORUM AND OUR CONSEQUENT DISCOURAGEMENT OF ATTENDANCE BY ACYPL, USYC OR THEIR LEADERSHIP AS INDIVIDUALS. BEYOND THAT AND A
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GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT SUPPLEMENTING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

IN WEST BERLIN, WE QUESTION ADVISABILITY OF FURNISHING
WEBER WITH DETAILS OF US PLANNING.

6. JAZZ- IN- THE- GARDEN SERIES (REFTEL A), PROPERLY
PUBLICIZED, WOULD SEEM TO OFFER REAL DRAWING CARD FOR WYF
PARTICIPANTS. THIS AND OTHER SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES
WILL BE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL IN SEPTEL.
ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE049797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ELSWING: MER: C/ Y: CSHEEHAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730331/aaaahxsu.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BERLIN 396, 73 BONN 3655, 73 STATE 36396, 73 STATE 16267
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971211
Subject: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (WYF)
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, WB, n/a
To: BERLIN
BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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